

REMARKS

I. Claim Status

Claims 1-2, 7-22, 27-71, 74-76, 79-105, 111-114, and 120-124 were cancelled by prior amendment. Claim 110 is being cancelled because it is duplicative of claim 137. New dependent claim 144, which is being added herein, is the same as claim 130 except it depends from claim 136, instead of claim 127. Claim 136 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, claims 3-6, 23, 72-73, 77-78, 106-109, 115-119, and 125-144 are pending. All of the pending claims read on the elected species.

II. Amendment to Specification

The Specification has been amended to substitute the serial number of the referenced PCT application for the attorney docket number.

III. Prior Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide them with signed off copy of the Supplemental IDS submitted on October 4, 2000. A copy of the October 4, 2000 Supplemental IDS is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

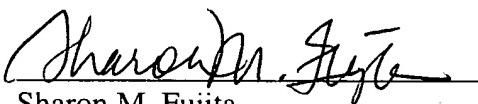
Attachment: Copy of Supplemental IDS submitted on October 4, 2000

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing submissions, favorable action on all claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set forth below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0990.

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